

Serial No. 10/625,852
Amendment dated June 9, 2004
In Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1(amended). A tool for forming a surface, comprising:

a) a stamp ,the stamp including an upper surface and a lower surface;

b) a forming element provided on the stamp, the forming element including an interior and an exterior, the interior including a forming surface configured for forming a semi-solid material into a predetermined shape, the predetermined shape including a truncated dome;

c) a pressure-relief element provided adjacent the forming element, the pressure-relief element being sized and configured for causing air to enter and exit the interior of the forming element, in use, so that the predetermined shape is obtained when the stamp is used and the forming element is forming a semi-solid material into the predetermined shape;

d) the pressure-relief element including a hole provided in the stamp, the hole extending between the interior and the exterior, the hole including at least a portion of the truncated

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dome, and the at least a portion of the truncated dome being a top portion of the truncated dome and opening to the exterior; and

e) the truncated dome being defined by the interior in an uninterrupted, continuous curvature extending from the exterior of the stamp at the upper surface to the lower surface of the stamp.

2(cancelled).

3(original). A tool as in claim 1, wherein:

a) the pressure-relief element includes a pressure-equalizing element, the pressure-equalizing element being configured for equalizing the pressure between the interior and the exterior.

4(original). A tool as in claim 1, wherein:

a) the forming element includes a truncated dome.

5(original). A tool as in claim 1, wherein:

a) the forming element includes a truncated cone.

6(currently amended). A tool as in claim 1, ~~2~~, wherein:

a) the forming element includes a series of truncated domes arranged in aligned columns.

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7(original). A tool as in claim 1, wherein:

a) the forming element includes a series of truncated domes aligned in columns.

8(original). A tool as in claim 7, wherein:

a) the aligned columns are spaced apart at a width wider than a width of a conventional wheelchair tire.

9-18(cancelled).

19(new). A tool for forming a surface having an outwardly extending truncated dome on the surface, the tool comprising:

a) a stamp;

b) the stamp including an upper surface and a lower surface;

c) a forming element provided on the stamp, the forming element including an interior, the interior including a forming surface configured for forming a semi-solid material into a predetermined shape, the predetermined shape including a volume having a truncated portion;

d) the truncated portion being defined by a hole in the upper surface of the stamp and by an intersection of the hole and the upper surface, the hole extending into the interior;

e) the forming surface of the forming element defining

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the truncated dome including a substantially uninterrupted curvature extending from the upper surface to the lower surface; and

f) the predetermined shape and the hole being configured so that, in use, when the lower surface of the stamp is pressed into a semi-solid material and a semi-solid material is pressed into the predetermined shape, then, the hole and the intersection of the hole and the upper surface define the truncated portion of a semi-solid material so that a truncated dome is formed.

20(new). A tool as in claim 19, wherein:

a) the volume having a truncated portion includes a truncated sphere.

21(new). A tool as in claim 19, wherein:

a) the volume having a truncated portion includes a truncated cone.

22(new). A tool as in claim 19, wherein:

a) the stamp includes a flexible material.

23(new). A tool as in claim 19, wherein:

a) the stamp is substantially rectangular.

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24(new). A tool as in claim 19, wherein:

a) the stamp is substantially square.

25(new). A tool as in claim 22, wherein:

a) the material is an elastomeric material having a
memory.